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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 16 November to 12 December 1953

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 11 January 1954

REF ID: K624

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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25X1X 1. Between 17 November and 12 December 1953, Soviet troops cut down woods in Rosso Heath east of Fretzdorf at Schweinrich troop training grounds. The stumps were blasted and young plantations burned down. The troops employed there left on 26 November, taking along their tools.

2. The following shipments passed through Wittstock rail road station between 24 and 30 November 1953:

At about 7:30 p.m. on 24 November. A train of 4 sealed boxcars, 1 boxcar with about 35 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 1 flatcar with an assault gun passed through the station from the direction of Wittenberge and proceeded toward Neustrelitz.

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At about 7 p.m. on 25 November. A train of 4 sealed boxcars, 2 empty boxcars and 1 flatcar with an assault gun passed through the station from the direction of Wittenberge and proceeded toward Neustrelitz.

At 2 a.m. on 29 November. A train of 8 sealed boxcars and 3 tank cars passed through the station from the direction of Neustrelitz and proceeded toward Wittenberge.

At about 1:45 p.m. on 30 November. A train of 8 carloads of briquettes and 1 flatcar with a prime mover passed through the station from the direction of Wittenberge and proceeded toward Neustrelitz.

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3. Between 20 November and 4 December, the troop-training ground was occupied by about 60 soldiers only. Clearing work was done in Zehlin Forest south of Schweinrich.

4. During the period of observation, about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets constructed a low, wooden temporary building near Hammelstall. Three trucks each loaded with boards and beams were seen nearby.

5. Between 16 and 18 November, there was heavy traffic of trucks through Gadow, with some of the trucks carrying troops and some loaded with timber. Trucks

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[redacted] passed through Gadow from the direction of Zechlin and proceeded toward Neuruppin on 17 November. On 18 November, trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] were seen in Gadow, coming from the direction of Neuruppin. Some of the trucks were occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and were equipped with axes and spades.

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6. On 18 November, [redacted] large fires were burning in Forest Sections No 63 and 64, southeast of Gadow. On 19 November, Soviet fatigue details wearing red-bordered black epaulets cleared woods southeast of Gadow. The timber was picked up by trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] On the basis of the clearings [redacted] between 18 and 26 November determined that the southern border was formed by Forest Sections No 51, 50, 49, and 48, southeast of Gadow, that the eastern border ran from Forest Section No 48 toward north via Forest Sections No 63 and 107 toward Forest Section No 16 and the western border ran from Forest Section No 51 toward north via Forest Sections No 32, 109b, toward Forest Section No 21. On 20 November, fatigue details were no longer seen in the woods mentioned on 20 November.

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7. Between mid-November and 3 December 1953, [redacted] that about 1,000 troops including unusually many officers had arrived at Dranse railroad station in about mid-November and left the troop training grounds again via Dranse railroad station after about 10 days. This unit had cut down a clearing, about 1 km wide and about 25 km long, which ran toward the south as far as Pfalzheim. The Soviet troops were assigned German forest workers. Underwood and brushwork was burned and the timber shipped away. A 2-km clearing was cut down in one day. While, at first, the lieutenant colonel in charge permitted German civilians to pick up fire wood, he later cancelled this measure.

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8. Between 26 November and 2 December, [redacted] on 26 November, the troops from the southeast sector of the troop training grounds had left toward Neuruppin. Stumps and young plantations of fir trees had been piled up to be burned. Three clearings had been cut. The fatigue details in the north sector of the training grounds had also left, with only a guard unit remaining. On 6 December, 5 trucks, each carrying about 25 officers, went to the troop training grounds via Neuglienicke, and stopped in Forest Section No 92 near Neuglienicke

where the officers inspected the clearings. [redacted] On

8 December, 3 armored personnel carriers occupied by officers were seen in this area. The [redacted] vehicles were driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets. They proceeded toward Basdorf after a short stop at Neuglienicke.

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On 9 December 5 trucks [redacted] and each occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets drove to the abovementioned tree and later proceeded toward Basdorf. On 10 December, 7 trucks with sheet-metal superstructures drove over the clearings in the north sector of the troop training grounds.

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[redacted] The guard detail in that sector of the training grounds permitted the German population to pick up the tree stumps. Between 3 and 11 December,

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[redacted] a guard unit of about 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was stationed in the area of Rheinsberg, Zechow and Bienenwalde. The area was not placed off limits. Trucks with sheet-metal superstructure were also identified there.

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[redacted] Company. Detailed information on the new, large clearings in the area of the KGB-stock troop training grounds was last forwarded with [redacted] It seems that work in the areas south of the Schweinrich-Zechlin road and south of Gadow was completed about 20 November, as had been indicated in the referenced [redacted] fatigue

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details of the 13th Motor Div and 94th GIs 172d Rifle Div were predominantly confirmed in the two areas. It is believed that clearing work west of Neuglienicke was terminated on 26 November. New sketches available and the statements in

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paragraph 6 indicate that the clearings in the two firstmentioned areas are about 2.5 km wide and about 6 km long and those west of Meuglienicke about 2.5 km wide and 3.5 km long. The data in paragraph 7 on length and width of the clearing south of Gudow are therefore believed incorrect. The clearings will obviously serve as firing lanes.

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